NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

October 24, 1997

our newest exhibit is opening ...

Staff & Volunteer Preview

Tuesday, November 4, 1997
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments Provided

Questions? Call the Human Resources Department, ext. 356.

CELEBRACION '97!
A SPECIAL INVITATION TO FIELD MUSEUM STAFF

We invite all Musuem staff to experience this year's Latin American Heritage Festival, **Celebracion '97: Living Together in the Americas,** which promotes the opening of the new **Living Together** exhibit, and includes an incredible variety of Latino films, educational activities, scientific presentations, and musical offerings in Stanley Field Hall from Saturday, October 25 to Tuesday, October 28. **Celebracion** events begin with a 5:30 p.m. opening reception on Friday, October 24 (special food served!), followed by the 7:00 showing of the film "Frida." Staff admission ($5.00) is discounted for the film (public admission $10), so don't miss this important film that tells the story of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Then, things really get going for the next four days on Saturday as artists, scientists and musicians help "The Day of the Dead" celebrations come alive in Stanley Field Hall. There's a lecture on Maya glyphs on Saturday, and the daily construction of a Todos Santos altar, sugar skull making, a special "Day of the Dead" menu served up in the food court, and more films, music and activities presented by the Field Museum education department. Field Museum scientists included in the festivities include **Alaka Wali, Phil Parillo, Bruce Patterson, Dave Willard, Laura Torres,** and **Paul Brinkman.** And if that's not enough, Saturday and Sunday also have a full menu of Halloween theatrical performances and art activities on the ground floor! Come celebrate El Dia de los Muertos and Halloween with us! -- Submitted by **Dan Brinkmeier**

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday 21 October 1997 was delivered by Christopher Gordon, Project Co-ordinator, Volta Basin Research Project, Senior Research Fellow, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, and 1997 recipient of the Parker-Gentry Award for Conservation Biology. Gordon discussed research programs to document the impact of the Akosombo and Kpong dams on the Volta River. Although these dams produce about 80% of the energy used in all of Ghana, the ecological impact has led to major disruption of the peoples of the lower Volta. Changes in the rate of flow of the Volta River have led to a decline in suspended sediments and salinity of the water. Clearer water promoted growth of aquatic vegetation which is now fed upon by snails previously excluded by saline conditions. The snails now vector the trematodes which cause schistosomiasis. Recent surveys found an incidence of 70% in adults and 100% in children living in more than 400 villages within five miles of the lower Volta. One approach to controlling further spread of the disease would be to eliminate the aquatic vegetation. By demonstrating that the snails are restricted to vegetation growing to a depth of only one meter, Gordon has given a new focus to approaches to vegetation and hence snail and schistosomiasis control. Gordon also discussed projects designed to provide economically viable alternatives, such as aquaculture, to replace the clam harvesting economy that was lost due to changes in water salinity.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

1997

November

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 BAdams-JST 8:00am- 12:00am 900 A.T. Kearney-Rice
2 *SF-Bear's Game (12"00 Noon*	**3** Astra Merck-SFH 8:30pm-11:00pm 300 Will White-JST 7:00am – 12:00am Chgo Hang Gliding-LHI 7:00-10:00pm ILL Myco Soc.-LHII 7:30-10:00pm	**4** Member Preview 5:30pm-9:00pm ED-S Bell-JST 5:30pm-10:00pm MR	**5** Dev-SGunderson-SFH 5:30pm-7:30pm MR	**6** Educator's Preview-SFH/Rice 4:00pm-12:00am 400 JThymes- JST 8:00am-1:00pm	**7** WWhite; JST 10:00am-12:00am MR Living Together Opening Humanities Dinner-SFH 6:00pm-12:00am 600	**8** Living Together Opening WWhite; JST 10:00am-5:00pm Overnight
9 WWhite; JST 12:00pm-5:00pm; SFH evening event Living Together Opening	**10** Nature Cam. Clb-LHII 7:30-10:30pm Primitive Art Soc.-LHI 7:30-10:00pm	**11** ED-S Bell-JST 5:30pm-10:00pm	**12** Alaka Wali-JST 8:00am-6:00pm	**13** PLUS; SFH/balcony 6:00pm-9:00pm; 2000 CAndresen: Set-up 10:00pm Alaka Wali-JST 8:00am-6:00pm	**14** CAndresen; Set-up all-day Women's Bd Gala SFH 6:30pm-12:00am Alaka Wali-JST 8:00am-6:00pm	**15** Falk Comm-Rice/JST 11:00pm-6:00pm 150 MR
16 *SF-Bear's Game (12:00pm)*	**17** Chgo Orinth. Soc. LHII 7:00-10:00pm Chgo Mting Club-LHI 6:30-9:30pm	**18** ED-S Bell-Rice/JST 5:30pm-10:00pm	**19** JCarter-SFH	**20** Lucent Tech. –SFH 7:00pm-11:00pm 500	**21** Living Together Workshop 8:00am-12:00 Midnight Celebration of Life-Whole Museum 8:00pm-12:00am	**22** Crusader's Church; SFH/balcony 7:00pm-11:00pm; 500-1000 Kwebber-Living Together –JST 10:00am-4:00pm MR
23 *SF-Bear's Game 12:00 noon*	**24**	**25**	**26** Chgo Herp. Soc.-LHII 7:30pm-10:00pm	**27 Thanksgiving**	**28** Cross Culture-SFH	**29** Lyric Opera-JST 9:00am-4:00pm 900
30 S Gunderson-Grd.-Flr Phillipine Fund Raiser 12:00pm-6:30pm 900						

10/21/97

"BOOK-ABLE" SPACES IN FIELD MUSEUM
1/6/95

SPACE	LOC	MAX	USE	SCHEDULE BY	CONTACT	EXT.	
Classroom 1	GF	50	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 2	GF	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 3	GF	30	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Conf. Room 1	GF	20	I	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room A	GF	16	I	Instit. Adv.	Adam Shapiro	617	Restricted use
Dining Room B	GF	4	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C	GF	6	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C/D	GF	20	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room D	GF	12	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room E	GF	75	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
D&P Conf. Room	4th	10	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Educ. Conf. Room	GF	14	I S	Education	Clara Aytch-Baker	247	
Developers Conf. Rm.	4th	8	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Founder's Room	1st	100	I S	Tours	Dorothy Roder	862	Restricted use
Montgomery Ward H.	GF	150	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Lecture Hall II	GF	75	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic East (Sch)	GF	320	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic West (Pub)	GF	125	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Rice Center	1st		P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Simpson Theatre	GF	1000	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Zoology Clrm.	3rd	50	I	Zoology	Norann Miller	255	
Webber Resource	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Maori Meeting House	2nd	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Pawnee Earth Lodge	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Place for Wonder	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Stanley Field Hall	1st	35	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
EXHIBIT HALL: Permanent Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	Exhibits Dept. consulted prior to confirmation
EXHIBIT HALLS: Special Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	

I = Internal (meetings, etc.)
P = Public (Programs, Classes, etc.)
S = Special Events

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MYCOLOGISTS SPEND SEPTEMBER COLLECTING FUNGI IN CHINA

Associate Curator and Chair **Greg Mueller**, Collections Manager **Qiuxin Wu**, and Intern **David Quist** (all from Botany) spent September in China as part of Qiuxin and Greg's National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded United States/China collaborative science project. They investigated biogeographic relationships between the macrofungi of eastern North America and temperate east Asia. Along with their Chinese collaborators, they collected in the northeast near the North Korean border (Changbai Mountains, Jiling Province) and in the southwest provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan. The northeast sites proved highly productive -- they collected over 120 species in one 0.1ha (¼ acre) plot. Among these were several species that had previously only been reported from eastern North America. Additional populations of these species were found in the southwest. These disjunct species are a focus of their work. They are investigating morphological and molecular similarities/differences between these widely separated populations to test hypotheses proposed to explain these distribution patterns. Three of the Chinese collaborators are planning a research visit to Chicago during 1998.

MYCOLOGISTS RETURN FROM FIELDWORK IN PANAMA

Adjunct Curator **Sabine Huhndorf** and Postdoctoral Research Associate **Fernando Fernandez** (both Botany) collected Ascomycete fungi on Barro Colorado Island, Panama as part of Sabine's NSF PEET project. Although it was much drier than normal for this time of year, an effect of El Niño, they still found a number of interesting fungi that are being integrated into their expanding collection of specimens and cultures. The goal of the study is to document diversity and determine biogeographic and phylogenetic relationships among the Lasiosphaeriaceae, an important and diverse group of wood- and dung-inhabiting fungi. To learn more, see the project's web page listed under Botany on the Museum's website.

NEW CHAIR OF THE ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Zoology thanks Associate Curator **Barry Chernoff** for four years of service as the Chair of Zoology. The new Chair, Associate Curator **Rüdiger Bieler**, began his term on October 1. In addition to his responsibilities as the Zoology Department Chair, Rüdiger maintains an active research program on the evolutionary biology of mollusks, with two active research grants dealing with snail phylogeny and one active collection grant. Rüdiger came to The Field Museum six-and-a-half years ago from the Delaware Museum of Natural History, where he was a curator and served as the Museum's Acting Director (he presently serves on its Board of Trustees). Rüdiger also serves as: President of the International Society of Malacology; a member of the faculty of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology (CEB) at the University of Chicago; and as editor on several scientific publications, including as North American editor of the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Dear Mr. McCarter:

You do not know me, but I live in Hawaii on the island of Oahu. This morning I was so touched by your wonderful **Beverly** in Visitor Services and **Michael** in your Main Gift Shop, that I just had to write and say "Thank You" to you all.

My quest was one I undertook after seeing the movie last night called "The Ghost and The Darkness" about two lions in Africa. At the end of the movie, they mentioned where to see the lions and all I was able to catch was Illinois. I wanted to know if, as the film claimed, the story was true, and if so, I wanted to know more about it and possibly see the lions one day.

Beverly took my call and was pleasant and patient as I tried to explain. She also told me that in the year 2000, the T-Rex named Sue would be coming. I am hoping to also see her. Then Beverly connected me with the main gift shop, where Michael helped by letting me know how to obtain the brochure about the lions as well as letting me know a video was in the ... He was so patient and kind to me. I've already sent for the brochure.

Editor's note: Many people have given me "fan mail" recently, and I hope to publish it all as soon as time and space allow. Keep it coming -- we all need some kudos occasionally.

THANKS!

Thank you to **Ed Czerwin** and **Andy Medina** in the Print Shop for their seemingly inexhaustible supply of patience and good will in printing the *Natural News* week after week. They always have a kind word for a frazzled staffer and this has often meant more to me than I can possibly say. Thanks! -- **Carolyn Klyce**

SOUTH DOOR -- Opening Earlier and Closing Later

To better accomodate our staff who park in the east lot, the south door will remain open on week nights until 7:00 p.m. In addition, we will open the south door on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Therefore, the new hours for the south door will be 6:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. -- **Ron Cundiff**

The deadline for submissions to the *Natural News* is -- and has been for years -- Tuesday at noon.